

Service Date: October 26, 1989

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER Of The Application)	
Of U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS For The)	UTILITY DIVISION
Revision Of The Construction)	DOCKET NO. 89.9.30
Charge Tariff To Incorporate)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5430
A "Rural Connection Program")	
_____)	

On September 8, 1989, U S West Communications (USWC) applied to the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) for authority to establish a Rural Connection Program.

Findings of Fact

A Notice of Opportunity For Public Hearing was issued on September 25, 1989. The notice was served on the Montana Consumer Counsel and published in major newspapers in U S West Communications territory across the state. The notice stated that if no requests for hearing were received by October 20, 1989 a Default Order may be issued.

No requests for hearing on the application have been received by the Commission. Several comments in favor of the program were received.

U S West Communications proposes that each applicant pay up to \$3000 on any construction job which does not exceed \$15,000 in cost. All construction costs in excess of \$15,000 will be paid by the applicant(s)

who will benefit from the extension. The difference between the applicant's cost and the total cost will become a part of the general construction process of U S West Communications and will impact the general body of subscribers.

The Commission accepts U S West Communications' proposed Rural Connection Program as filed with the Commission.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. U S West Communications furnishes regulated telecommunications services within the State of Montana and is a "public utility" under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. The Commission has provided adequate public notice of this proceeding and an opportunity to be heard to all interested parties in this Docket. Title 69, Chapter 3 and Title 2, Chapter 4, MCA.

4. The rates and charges approved herein are just, reasonable, and not unjustly discriminatory. Sections 69-3-330 and 69-3-201, MCA.

ORDER

1. U S West Communications' request to establish a Rural Connection Program is hereby granted as filed.

2. This Docket is closed.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 25th day of
October, 1989 by 4 - 1 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner,
Voted to Dissent. No Dissent Written.

WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell
Acting Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.